(b) whether there have been complaints of unequal relief measures also and showing of discrimination in rehabilitation the affected persons; and

(c) if so, what steps have been taken by the Central Government to check the malfunctioning?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPADYESSO NAIK): (a) and (b) No, Sir. No such reports have been received by the Central Government.

(c) It is primarily the responsibility of the State Government to undertake necessary measures in the wake of natural calamities. The Government of India supplements the efforts of the State Government. However, any specific complaint received is forwarded to the State Government for suitable action.

Fall in prices of agricultural commodities

2746. DR.DASARINARAYANARAO:
SHRI NAGENDRA NATH OJHA:
SHRI GAYA SINGH:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a)»whether Government have noticed the constant fall in prices of almost all the agriculture crops in the country during the last three years, adversely affecting the farmers leading to suicides in many cases;

(b) if so, the details thereof, year-wise; and

(c) the remedial measures being taken in this regard, to save farmers from debt and suicides?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPADYESSO NAIK): (a) and (b) A Statement showing year-wise percentage variations in wholesale Price Index Numbers of major agricultural commodities during the last three years is enclosed. *(See* below).

(c) The various steps taken to protect the interests of farmers include; fixation of minimum support prices of major agricultural commodities and undertaking procurement operations thereof; implementation of market intervention scheme; and using instruments of trade to discourage imports and encourage exports, etc.

Statement

Year-wise percentage variations in the Wholesale Price Index Numbers of major agricultural commodities during the last three years

(Base 1993-94=100)

Commodity	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-2001
All-Commodities	5.9	3.3	7.1
Agricultural Commodities	12.0	1.1	3.0
Rice	8.8	17.3	-2.2
Jowar	10.5	26.4	-17.0
Bajra	9.2	28.5	-8.5
Maize	4.02	5.4	-7.6
Ragi	10.1	17.3	1.9
Wheat	9.8	15.1	1.1
Barley	-8.8	31.3	-12.5
Gram	-10.9	4.1	20.6
Arhar	36.7	-5.3	-14.7
Moong	10.0	-0.3	3.5
Urad	12.5	18.6	26.4
Raw Cotton	7.4	-11.7	6.8
Raw Jute	6.0	4.6	32.7
Groundnut Seed	12.6	-7.4	-0.1
Repseed/Mustard Seed	40.0	-15.2	-14.9
Soyabeen	-10.5	-13.5	12.7
Sunflower	12.7	-18.8	0.6
Safflower	32.3	-9.1	-13.2
Copra	-9.3	9.4	-32.8
Sesamum	36.2	-1.8	-13.9
Nigerseed	16.6	22.5	3.1

Fall in milk production

2747. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that milk production in the country has fallen during the last few years;

(b) if so, the reasons for such decline; and